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Rusk Disputes Fulbright View Of Cuba Policy

Calls Castro More Than a Nuisance To Hemisphere

By the Associated Press

Secretary of State Rusk has clashed with Senator Fulbright's views on Cuba and has made it clear that the administration disagrees with many points the Senator raised in a foreign policy speech.

But Mr. Rusk told a news conference yesterday he goes along with the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on some of the issues brought up in his Senate speech Wednesday.

Mr. Rusk said Senator Fulbright's speech was a "thoughtful and thought-provoking" one. He called it a "contribution to discussion," adding, "It is important that these matters be discussed."

On this last point the two were in solid agreement, for Senator Fulbright has said his reason for making the speech was to "stimulate consideration of our present course by all thoughtful Americans."

Fulbright Comments

As for specific disagreements expressed by Mr. Rusk, Senator Fulbright later told newsmen, "I do not want to get into an argument with the Secretary."

Here's how the two differ on the Cuban situation:

Castro: Senator Fulbright called the Communist regime of Fidel Castro a "distasteful nuisance but not an intolerable danger." Mr. Rusk said Premier Castro is "more than a nuisance, he is a threat to the hemisphere."

Boycott: Senator Fulbright said United States efforts to persuade other non-Communist nations to go along with the economic boycott of Cuba have been a failure, and he called for an end to the policy. Mr. Rusk said the economic isolation of Cuba "has not been complete, but it has been very substantial" with a "substantial amount of co-operation" from allies. He said the boycott will change his ways.

Realities Being Faced

Their views on other points:

Policy flexibility: Senator Fulbright said "old myths" which have guided foreign policy attitudes should give way to revised assessments "in the face of new realities." Mr. Rusk said the administration, in fact, has been facing up to realities in its foreign policy. He agreed that the Communists no longer present a solid bloc.

Panama: Senator Fulbright said the United States should take a more magnanimous position toward revising the Panama Canal treaty. Mr. Rusk said he didn't want to get into that subject because the two nations are now very close to an agreement.

China: Senator Fulbright said Red China should neither be recognized nor admitted to the United Nations. Mr. Rusk agreed.

Although most of the news conference centered on questions about Senator Fulbright's speech, there was also a focus on United States-Soviet relations.

No Strings on Flyers

Mr. Rusk stressed that no strings had been attached to the release yesterday of two American fliers shot down over East Germany March 10.

Mr. Rusk also disclosed he had asked Russia for more information about Lee Harvey Oswald, the ex-Marine accused of assassinating President Kennedy.

The Soviet government has already provided some information on Oswald for the Warren Commission which is investigating the assassination. Oswald lived in Russia for more than two years and married a Russian girl.

Many of the points raised by Senator Fulbright received the backing yesterday of Senator George D. Aiken of Vermont, senior Republican on Senator Fulbright's committee. As for Cuba, Senator Aiken said, "I've never known a country to be more democratic."

Mr. Rusk noted during the press conference that he once listed his grandfathers in a security investigation as persons who had tried to violently overthrow the United States Government because, "I thought one of them was at Gettysburg."

The Georgia-born Rusk injected this note in what was an otherwise serious response to a question about allegation of lax security in the State Department.

A number of stories have been published in recent weeks alleging that a large-scale security checkup is under way. According to some, a Polish defector, Michal Goleniewski, supplied information on sex and spy activities by United States diplomats which the State Department has kept covered up.

"Unrelenting" Effort

Mr. Rusk said the State Department is constantly subject to foreign attempts to penetrate its ranks and he promised "an unrelenting effort to meet these attempts at penetration."

But while security checks on United States diplomats are constantly going on, he said the State Department has in fact obtained "a very high standard of conduct" among its officers of which he is very proud.

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